

THE
HISTORY
OF

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Argalus & Parthenia:

BEING

A Choice Flower gathered out of
SIR PHILIP SIDNEY'S RARE GARDEN



Printed in the Year 1788.—(T)

THE HISTORY OF ARGALUS and PARTHENIA.



C H A P. I.

The Beginning of the Loves of Argalus and Parthenia.

IN the pleasant Country of Arcadia, a place noted for rural delights and sweetness of air, reigned a Prince named Basilius; a Man possessed of all those amiable Qualifications which rendered him beloved, honoured, and esteemed by all ranks of his Subjects. This good King married a young Princess named Cyrecia, daughter to the King of Cypus, a lady of beauty, wit, virtue, and unspotted chastity; with whom there came to the court of Basilius, a cousin German of her's named Argalus, led with her by the humour of youth to observe the manner and customs of strange Countries; being a gentleman both learned and valiant.— He had not long resided in that place, before

before the fame of a gallant lady's virtues and beauty reached his ears, and so affected his heart that he could not but take an opportunity to see her; and in seeing he could not avoid liking and loving so matchless a Piece of Nature's Perfection. Her name was Parthenia, daughter to a great lady of the court; endowed with every accomplishment to render the man happy unto whose lot she fell.—Such rare perfections, meeting with those of Argalus, soon found out each other; and so be short, they kindled a fire in each others breast, which was attended with many trials and disappointments; as the sequel of this history will shew.

C H A P. II.

Parthenia denies the Suit of Demogoras.

THERE has been a good while a suitor to Parthenia, a nobleman of Laconia, named Demogoras, a man of riches and power, stubbornly stout, loving no-body but himself. Parthenia suiting his desires, he made application to her mother for her consent to marry her daughter; and his riches and his smooth tongue soon got her consent thereunto; upon which she went to Parthenia to acquaint her with the same; who being constant to Argalus, and detesting Demogoras, said that she was sorry she must refuse, assuring her mother she would rather be buried alive than wedded to Demogoras.

This answer was very unpleasant to the Mother, who being fully bent to marry her to Demogoras, tried all the ways that a witty and hard hearted woman could use upon an humble daughter, in whom the only resisting power was Love: But the more she assaulted, the more

more Parthenia defended, and the more she made her mother obstinate in the assault; who at length finding Argalus standing between them, and that it was ne that most eclipsed her affection from shining upon Demoragas, sought all means how to remove him, so much the more as he manifested himself an unremoveable suitor to her daughter, first by employing him in many dangerous enterprises, as desperate duels, bloody combats with Giants, Lions, Dragons, wild Boars, and the like.—— But the more his virtue was rried the more pure it grew; and the things she did to overthrow him did but so much the more advance his honour; whereupon she struggled against all reason, because she would have her will, conspired with Demagoras the following treacherous Plan against him.

CHAP. III.

K Nowing the valour of Argalus, there was no way to dispatch him openly; she therefore resolved to imprison him, and so effect it secretly; and to that purpose prevails upon Parthenia's maid to secrecy and assistance; upon which the old Lady called Arthelia, (that being her name) saying, you know the Love I bear to my Daughter Parthenia, and that in her welfare consists my happiness; now so it is, Parthenia is in love yea languishing; she loves one that treats her Fondness with disdain, and this encreases her misery: it is Argalus she doats on, nothing but Death is like to be the Issue of her Fondness, therefore I have formed a Project, which I doubt not but by your Assistance will be of great Service to her—Madam replied the Maid, I am not ignorant of my mistress's affection, and will, at the Hazard of my Life procure her contentment— Hereupon the old Lady stepped into the closet, and wrote

wrote the following letter in the name of Parthenia.

“ To the faithful Lover Argalus,

“ Although my mother’s malice enforces my tongue to hide my passion, Parthenia’s love is still the same — What I send thee drink speedily ; for there is treason already hatched against you ; from which this will excuse you.

Thy constant

PARTHENIA.”

So sealing the letter she gave it to Athelia together with a small phial of venomous poison ; telling her it was a liquor called Nepenthee, which the Gods when they were dry used to drink of ; it having such a secret virtue that it would make the proudest lover creep and whine to his mistress for favour, and such to doat as never loved at all ; charging her not to taste it, nor deliver it to any but Argalus’s own hands.

That night Athelia could not sleep, and in the morning begins her journey, not

suspect-

suspecting the treachery of her message, but before she got half way, she made a stand, and began to think of the excellent virtue of the water she was carrying to Argalus, and woman like, being desirous of what was forbid, she tasted of it, and then redoubled her speed towards her journey's end; when all on a sudden her bowels began to gripe her, her tongue to blister, her veins to boil, and a cold sweat overspread her whole body, and staggering a while, at last tumbled down, iwell-ed like a bladder and died.

This news soon came to the ears of Argalus, and by the Letter found in Athelia's pocket, the whole plot was discovered; which being related to the old Lady, she was so enraged with spite, grief, and madness, that she threw herself on the ground, crying out, Welcome Death thou easer of all evils, and in a desperate frenzy she died.



C H A P. IV.

*Demagoras's wicked Scheme to frustrate
The Marriage of Argalus and Parthe-
nia: And the unhappy Consequences
thereof.*

THIS main objection being thus removed, Argalus had free access to his Parthenia, and the day was soon appointed for the solemnization of their marriage; and Argalus went home to fetch some of his Friends to honour the same.—In the mean time Demagoras, who now saw all his hopes frustrated; was resolved to be revenged on the Woman, though he durst not meddle with the Man; so with a Heart full of malice, he comes to the House where Parthenia dwelt, asking to speak with her; and being admitted into her presence, with merciless hands, her weak arms in vain resisting, rubbed all over her face a most horrible poison, which immediately made her look more ugly than a leaper; and having done this mischief, he made his escape. But the abominable ^{acts} of this fact

fact coming soon after to the King's ear, he was banished the Country.

Argalus returning, thinking to enjoy the utmost felicity came to Parthenia, and seeing her in that condition thought some hag was placed on purpose to mock him; but being assured it was really she, and the cause of this disfigurement, no tongue can express his grief and sorrow; for a while he was struck dumb till at last love and pity made him break silence and with all the Eloquence he was master of, he laboured both to drive the extremity of her sorrow from her and to hasten the celebration of their marriage, as unfeignedly joyful as if she had never been deprived of the goodly portion of nature, her most excessive beauty.

But has he gave this rare example of true love, so she on the other side took as strange a course of affection; for she could not find in her heart that he should be tied to one so unworthy of his presence; yet he conjured her by the remembrance of their former loves not to make him so unhappy as to think he had not only lost her face, but her heart; beseeching her with tears to believe that his love was deeper

deeper than her Skin, and that his own life would be always a burden to him if he could not enjoy her.—But she wringing him by the hand, made him this answer, My Lord, God knows I love you; if I was the Princess of the whole World, and had all the Blessings that ever the World produced, I should make no Delay to lay them and myself under your Feet; or if I had continued as I was, though I must confess, far unworthy of you, yet would I, with too great Joy for my heart now to think of, have accepted your vouching me to be yours, and with faith and obedience would have supplied all other defects; but first let me be more miserable than I am, e'er I match Argalus to such a Parthenia, Live happy, dear Argalus I give you full Liberty, and I beseech you take it; and I assure you I shall rejoice, whatever becomes of me to see you coupled as may be fit for your honour and Satisfaction,

With this she burst into tears, blaming her Fortune, and wishing her own death. Argalus with a heart full of grief, pursued his Desires, and she to avoid his further Entreaty, one night privately stol-

away, letting none know where she went or what became of her.

CHAP. V.

The Queen of CORINTH's Project to try the Love of ARGALUS, and the happy Effects of it.

ARGalus sought her long, but at last despairing to find her, took up his abode in the house of Kalinder, Uncle to Parthenia, with whom he had noble entertainment, but no peace of mind.

One day a Messenger came to Kalinder telling him a noble Lady, Kintwoman to fair Helen, Queen of Corinth, was come thither, desiring to lodge at his House.— Kalinder went to meet her, hoping it was his Niece Parthenia; but he soon found his mistake. The lady asked to speak with Argalus, who being come, she said, My Lord, I being lately in the Court of Queen Helen of Corinth, there came to that place the lady Parthenia; so disfigured, that I think Greece has nothing so ugly to behold; I would not believe it was

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was she, till she produced many undeniable Proofs. I took the best Care of her I could, and she told me the whole story of her Misfortune and your Constancy; but no outward cherishing could salve the inward Sore of her Mind, and a few Days since she died; but before her Death she earnestly desired me to think of no Husband but you, as a man most worthy of my Love; withal she gave me this Ring to deliver to you, desiring the affection you bore to her might turn to me; therefore, according to her Desire, I am come with faithful Love to offer myself; and beseech you to accept me.—Argalus with many Sighs, thus replied. Most excellent Lady, I am obliged to you for this, and had I not vowed to wed with none but Parthenia, you, above all others had got my Love.—Must I then, says she, be disgraced with this Dénial. Noble lady, I am obliged to refuse, since I am not capable of enjoying.—When he had spoke these Words she ran and embraced him, saying Why then Argalus, take thy Parthenia.—After some Silence, she said, I being retired to a solitary Place making my sad complaint, the Queen of Corinth passed by

by and over-heard me, she pittrying me,



took me home, and got me cured by her own Physitian; after which she adviled me to take this Step to try your Love.

This account being confirmed by a Corinthian Gentleman who attends her, great was the Joy of all parties, the happy effects of which the Reader will find in the next chapter,

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

*The Celebration of the Marriage of Argalus
and Parthenia.*

THE happy Pair being thus blessed
by this Meeting, nothing remained
but the completion of their desires; ac-
cordingly the Day appointed being come,
Argalus and Parthenia, richly attired, and
gallantly attended by the Country People,
and approaching the Temple was by the
Priest received with this Invocation,

*Hymen, be propitious now,
Let not a Wrinkle crown thy Brow;
But with all Joy and Happiness,
This young Couple ever bless.
Entering in thy Band they are,
Fight they must a pleasant war.
Yet shall no Bloodshed stain the Field,
No hurt is done when both Sides yield,
Still defend them from Annoy.
And send them many Years of Joy.
Bless them with Increase, and then
Crown 'em with Bliss henceforth, Amen.*

And

And so joining their Hands; he dismissed them with this Benediction,



*Now the sacred Knot is ty'd
Between the Bridegroom and the Bride.
Who are no longer two, but one,
So to remain till Life is done.
Still blest be they in all Affairs,
Living in Love, and void of Cares;
Their Children's Children for to see,
Spring up like Branches prosperously.*

This done, they returned to Kalinder Houle, where an elegant Dinner was provided; after which entered four young Shepherds and Shepherdesses adorn'd with wreaths of Bays and chaplets of flowers

known Bride and Bridegroom with the
rest

ere present, may you all be ever blest;
that so your lives may flourish gloriously,
crown'd with Love and sweet Prosperity.
And noble Sir's tho' Strangers here, we
crave, [have

that our good Wills may freely find and
your Kind acceptance, being the only aim
for which we in this manner hither came,
our Cheifest Study being only bent,
so we can but give you true Content.

Then they presented them with a de-
lightful Mask, full of curious dances, giv-
ing Satisfaction to the Beholders, and
having danced the last measure, thus con-
cluded;

Joy, Health, Love, Peace, and Bliss,

With all things else beside,

Now and at all times attend

The Bridegroom and the Bride.

The day being thus spent in sports and
pastimes, and night approaching, made a
separation between the friends, but a more
firm union between Argalus and Parthe-
na, who were conducted to their lodg-
ing.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

The unfortunate Death of Argalus.

LEAVING this happy Couple sweetly
 tised in the enjoyment of each other
 love, we now pass on to the conclusion
 of the history; In those Days there hap-
 pened an accident which put an end
 all their Felicity, and thus it was: Am-
 alus, a Prince of Valour, being in love
 with Philocles the King's youngest daugh-
 ter, who had stole her away, and kept her
 a strong Castle of his own; to which
 father laying siege, Amphialus sent out
 Challenge that if he had any knight in
 Camp that durst venture himself in single
 Combat with him, and if he should over-
 come him, he would immediately
 Philocles at Liberty: otherwise he was
 resolved to keep her:—Hereupon many
 Knights fought, but were slain, to the
 Grief of the King her Father; at last
 sent a Messenger to Argalus, desiring him
 to take his Quarrel in hand; who im-
 mediately granted his Desire, notwithstand-
 ing the warmest Persuasions of Parth-

ia to the contrary; and taking his leave
 with many Kisses, and a Promise of spee-
 dy return, he rode to the Camp, and the
 next Morning entered into the Combat
 with Amphialus; their Swords battering
 their armour, and making breaches for the
 lances to enter. Long they maintained
 an equal and dangerous Fight, until at
 last, both were faint with Loss of Blood;



us they fell struggling to the Ground,
 her scorning to yield, yet neither able
 overcome.

After

After a short Pause they fell to it again and now Argalus's best blood being spent and his noble heart quite tired out, his sword dropped out of his hand and himself into a swoon; at which Instant Parnthenia came running in between them who dreaming she saw Argalus in such a Case as she now found him, made haste thither, but too late, Argalus having only so much strength left as to speak a few words to her, so breathed his last in her Bosom, whose unspeakable Lamentations we are not able to express.—Argalus himself being much grieved thereat, had her and the Corpse of her beloved Argalus safely conveyed to the Camp Basilus, and there caused him to be honourably interred with all funeral pomp and military honour.



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C H A P. VII.

*Arthenia's Valour and Constancy in reveng-
ing the Death of Argalus; with her Death
and their Epitaph.*

ARTHENIA being now weary of her
Life, since Argalus was dead, and
resolved that the same hand which had
deprived him of Life, should also end
-her; whereupon she armed herself like a
warrior in black armour, on her shield was
engraved a beautiful Child with two heads
whereof one was dead and the other alive,
so that so as necessarily to look for Death;
some words was, NO WAY TO BE AIDED
FROM DEATH BUT BY DEATH.

So calling herself the Knight of the
Tomb, accompanied by some Damsels all
apparelled in mourning Weeds, went to
the Camp of Basilius, and from thence sent
Defiance to Amphialus, who honourably
accepted it: and easily overcoming so
weak an enemy, was moved with pity,
and desired him to cease the Combat, he
never having deserved any hate from
him, but she, instead of accepting his
courteous

courteous proffer, gave this short answer: False Traitor, thou liest, which so enraged him, that closing with her he overthrew her, and with the fall thrust her mortally in the body, and then went to pull off her helmet, thinking to make her recant what she had said, or cut off her head. But the head-piece was no sooner off, but there fell about the shoulders of the overcome Knight, the tresses of fair golden hair, which with the face, he soon knew to be Parthenia, the unfortunate wife of Argalus. Amphialus at this was astonished with grief, compassion, and shame detesting fortune, that made him unfortunate by this Victory: so putting off his own helmet, he knelt down to her and with tears testifying his sorrow, offered to help her, but Parthenia, who had the inward Messenger of her desired death, looking upon him, and then turning her sight away again, as from some detestable object, thus faintly answered him. Sir, I pray you let my maids take away my body untouched by you, the only honour I now desire by your means is that I have no honour of you, Argalus made no such bargain with you, that the hands which

which killed him, should help me, I have
 them the Service which I desire, no-
 thing remains now but that I go to live
 with him, by whose death I can do no-
 thing but die—— Then pausing a little,
 and fainting and again coming to herself
 said, O sweet death welcome, now I
 feel the bands untied of this cruel life!
 O death answer for me, that my thoughts
 were not so much as in a dream tasted
 thy comfort since they were deprived of
 Argalus: I come, my Argalus, I come,
 O God, hide my faults in thy mer-
 cy and grant as I feel thou dost, that
 thy eternal love we may love each
 other eternally, and this O Lord—— But
 the Propos cut off her Sentence, for with
 hastening up her hands and eyes to
 the skies, her noble soul departed: One
 might well assure themselves to heaven,
 which left the body in so heavenly a de-
 coration —— Her gentlewomen weep-
 ing carried away her body, and was met
 by King Basilius and his principal nobi-
 les, who mournfully attended her remains
 to the sepulchre wherein her beloved Ar-
 galus lay and into which she was entomb-
 ed with all the solemn pomp imaginable;
 and

and the King caused the following epitaph to be engraven on the tomb of these stant lovers.

The Epitaph.

His Being was in her alone.

And he not being, she was none;

They joy'd one Joy, one grief they griev'd

One Love they lov'd, one Life they liv'd

They both was one, so was the Sword,

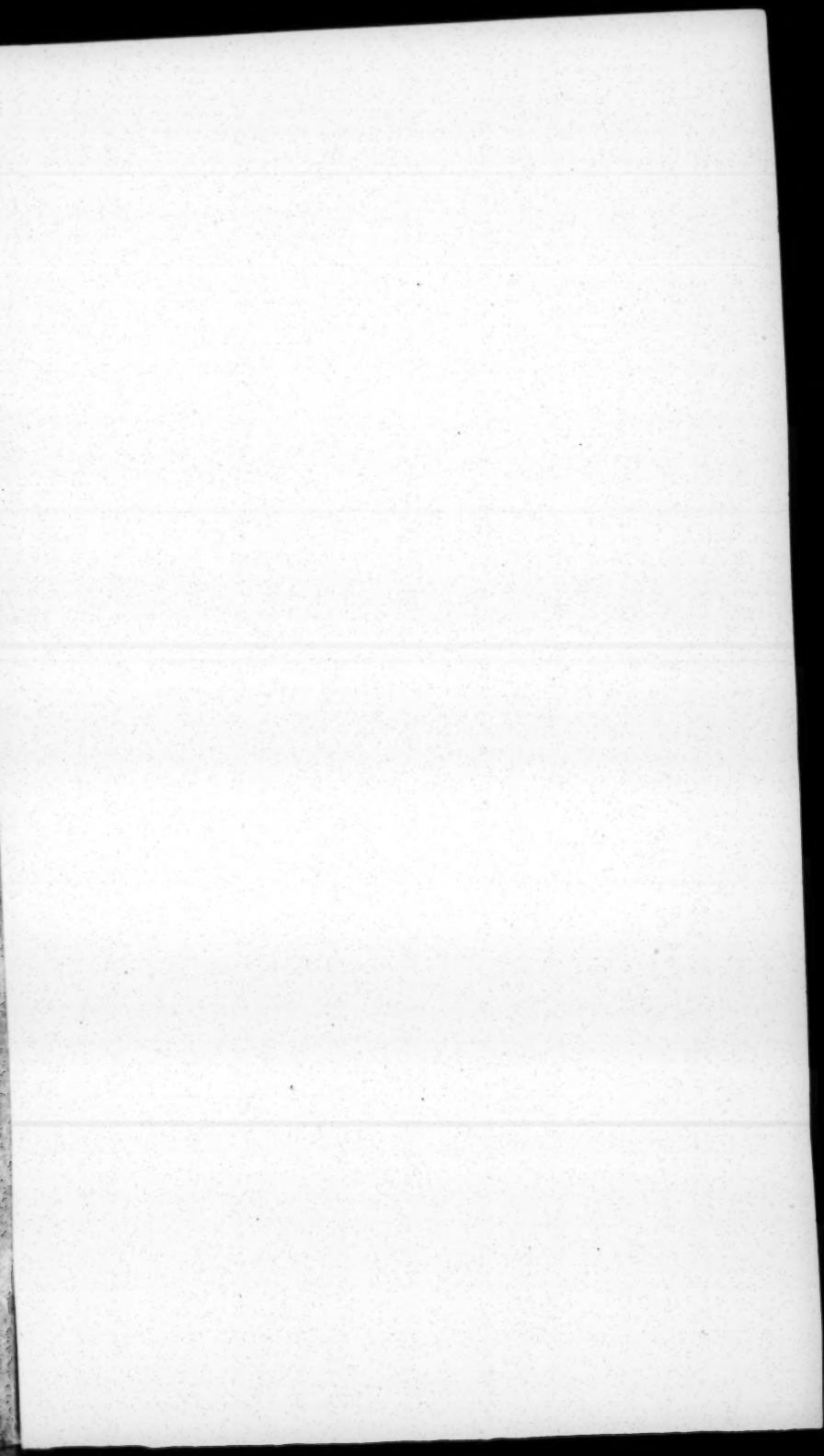
That did his Death, her Death afford

As now they rest, so now the Stone,

That tombs these two, is just but one,

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